

Federal Acquisition Regulation

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AUTHORITY: 40 U.S.C. 486(c); 10 U.S.C. Chapter 137; and 42 U.S.C. 2473(c).

SOURCE: 50 FR 1729, Jan. 11, 1985 (interim rule), and 50 FR 52429, Dec. 23, 1985 (final rule), unless otherwise noted.

6.000 Scope of part.

This part prescribes policies and procedures to promote full and open competition in the acquisition process and to provide for full and open competition, full and open competition after exclusion of sources, other than full and open competition, and competition advocates. As used in this part, full and open competition is the process by which all responsible offerors are allowed to compete. This part does not deal with the results of competition (e.g., adequate price competition), which are addressed in other parts (e.g., part 15).

6.001 Applicability.

This part applies to all acquisitions except—

(a) Contracts awarded using the simplified acquisition procedures of part 13 (but see 13.501 for requirements pertaining to sole source acquisition of commercial items under subpart 13.5).

(b) Contracts awarded using contracting procedures (other than those addressed in this part) that are expressly authorized by statute;

(c) Contract modifications, that are within the scope of the contract, including the exercise of priced options that were evaluated as part of the original competition (see 17.207(f));

(d) Orders placed under requirements contracts or definite-quantity contracts;

(e) Orders placed under indefinite-quantity contracts that were entered into pursuant to this part when—

(1) The contract was awarded under subpart 6.1 or 6.2 and all responsible sources were realistically permitted to compete for the requirements contained in the order; or

(2) The contract was awarded under subpart 6.3 and the required justification and approval adequately covers the requirements contained in the order; or

(f) Orders placed against task order and delivery order contracts entered into pursuant to subpart 16.5.

[50 FR 52431, Dec. 23, 1985, as amended at 55 FR 52790, Dec. 21, 1990; 60 FR 34747, July 3, 1995; 60 FR 49725, Sept. 26, 1995; 62 FR 263, Jan. 2, 1997; 62 FR 64917, Dec. 9, 1997]

6.002 Limitations.

No agency shall contract for supplies or services from another agency for the purpose of avoiding the requirements of this part.

6.003 Definitions.

Full and open competition, when used with respect to a contract action, means that all responsible sources are permitted to compete.

Procuring activity, as used in this part, means a component of an executive agency having a significant acquisition function and designated as such by the head of the agency. Unless agency regulations specify otherwise, the

term *procuring activity* shall be synonymous with *contracting activity* as defined in subpart 2.1.

Sole source acquisition means a contract for the purchase of supplies or services that is entered into or proposed to be entered into by an agency after soliciting and negotiating with only one source.

Unique and innovative concept, when used relative to an unsolicited research proposal, means that, in the opinion and to the knowledge of the Government evaluator, the meritorious proposal is the product of original thinking submitted in confidence by one source; contains new novel or changed concepts, approaches, or methods; was not submitted previously by another; and, is not otherwise available within the Federal Government. In this context, the term does not mean that the source has the sole capability of performing the research.

[50 FR 1729, Jan. 11, 1985; 50 FR 52429, Dec. 23, 1985, as amended at 53 FR 27463, July 20, 1988]

Subpart 6.1—Full and Open Competition

6.100 Scope of subpart.

This subpart prescribes the policy and procedures that are to be used to promote and provide for full and open competition.

6.101 Policy.

(a) 10 U.S.C. 2304 and 41 U.S.C. 253 require, with certain limited exceptions (see subparts 6.2 and 6.3), that contracting officers shall promote and provide for full and open competition in soliciting offers and awarding Government contracts.

(b) Contracting officers shall provide for full and open competition through use of the competitive procedure(s) contained in this subpart that are best suited to the circumstances of the contract action and consistent with the need to fulfill the Government's requirements efficiently (10 U.S.C. 2304 and 41 U.S.C. 253).

[50 FR 1729, Jan. 11, 1985, and 50 FR 52429, Dec. 23, 1985, as amended at 62 FR 51230, Sept. 30, 1997]

6.102 Use of competitive procedures.

The competitive procedures available for use in fulfilling the requirement for full and open competition are as follows:

(a) *Sealed bids*. (See 6.401(a).)

(b) *Competitive proposals*. (See 6.401(b).) If sealed bids are not appropriated under (a) above, contracting officers shall request competitive proposals or use the other competitive procedures under (c) or (d) below.

(c) *Combination of competitive procedures*. If sealed bids are not appropriate, contracting officers may use any combination of competitive procedures (e.g., two-step sealed bidding).

(d) *Other competitive procedures*. (1) Selection of sources for architect-engineer contracts in accordance with the provisions of Pub. L. 92-582 (40 U.S.C. 541 *et seq.*) is a competitive procedure (see subpart 36.6 for procedures).

(2) Competitive selection of basic and applied research and that part of development not related to the development of a specific system or hardware procurement is a competitive procedure if award results from—

(i) A broad agency announcement that is general in nature identifying areas of research interest, including criteria for selecting proposals, and soliciting the participation of all offerors capable of satisfying the Government's needs; and

(ii) A peer of scientific review.

(3) Use of multiple award schedules issued under the procedures established by the Administrator of General Services consistent with the requirement of 41 U.S.C. 259(b)(3)(A) for the multiple award schedule program of the General Services Administration is a competitive procedure.

[50 FR 1729, Jan. 11, 1985; 50 FR 52429, Dec. 23, 1985, as amended at 53 FR 27463, July 20, 1988; 59 FR 53716, Oct. 25, 1994]

Subpart 6.2—Full and Open Competition After Exclusion of Sources

6.200 Scope of subpart.

This subpart prescribes policies and procedures for providing for full and open competition after excluding one or more sources.